

IN THE CLAIMS

1-18 (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A copolymer comprising at least one grafted side chain comprising an aldehyde component ~~composed of aldehydes and a sulfur-containing acid component or a salt~~ ~~acids or salts~~ thereof, wherein the copolymer is water-soluble, biologically degradable ~~degradable~~, free of aminoplast ~~former~~ ~~former-free~~, and ~~is based~~ based on polyamide.
20. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 19, containing ~~wherein they contain~~ the polyamide component in an amount ~~proportions~~ of 5 to 80 % by weight of the copolymer, the aldehyde component in an amount ~~proportions~~ of 5 to 90 % by weight of the copolymer and the sulfur-containing acidic component in an amount ~~proportions~~ of 5 to 60 % by weight of the copolymer.
21. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 19, wherein the polyamide component is a natural polyamide ~~polyamides~~, ~~particularly preferably caseins, gelatins, collagens, bone glues, blood albumins, soya proteins and degradation products thereof formed by oxidation, hydrolysis or depolymerization, and synthetic polyamides or mixtures thereof.~~
22. (currently amended) A copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polyamide component ~~is a polyaspartic acid or copolymers of aspartic and glutamic acid and degradation products thereof formed by oxidation, hydrolysis or depolymerization as well as mixtures thereof.~~

23. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 19, comprising a grafted aldehyde based on paraformaldehyde, paraldehyde or unbranched non-aromatic aldehydes, formaldehyde, aldehydes-formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and glyoxal.
24. (previously presented) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, comprising a grafted aldehyde having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
25. (previously presented) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, comprising formaldehyde, acetaldehyde or glyoxal.
26. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 19, containing ~~wherein that they contain~~ grafted sulfur-containing acids (salts) based on inorganic sulfur salts.
27. (currently amended) A copolymer according to claim 26, wherein the grafted sulfur containing acid is a sulfite, hydrogen sulfite, or a disulfite ~~a disulfites~~ of an alkali metal, aluminum ~~or aluminium~~, iron or ammonium.
28. (previously presented) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, wherein that the side chain further comprises at least one compound from the series ketones and aromatic alcohols.
29. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 28, comprising additional compound is/are present in proportions of 5 to 85 % by weight.
30. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 28, comprising grafted ketones based on non-aromatic ketones 2-propanone, 2-butanone or pyruvic acid.

31. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 28, comprising grafted aromatic alcohols based on phenols, cresols, catechols or resorcins.
32. (currently amended) A copolymer ~~copolymers~~ as claimed in claim 19, produced by graft polymerization at temperatures between -10 and 250°C.
33. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A copolymer of claim 29, wherein the graft polymerization is conducted in the presence of a solvent.
34. (previously presented) A composition comprising an inorganic binder and the copolymer of claim 19.
35. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A copolymer of claim 28, wherein said graft polymerization is by thermal treatment.
36. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A copolymer of claim 19, wherein the copolymer has a molar mass  $\overline{M}_n$  of <50,000 g/mol.
37. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A copolymer of claim 33, wherein said solvent is a polar solvent.
38. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A copolymer of claim 37, wherein said polar solvent is water is dimethylsulfoxide.

39. (previously presented) A copolymer as claimed in claim 19, ~~wherein they contain~~ containing the polyamide component in proportions in an amount of 10 to 60 % by weight of the copolymer, the aldehyde component in an amount of ~~from proportions~~ of 10 to 70 % by weight of the copolymer ~~by weight~~ and the sulfur-containing acidic component in an amount ~~proportions~~ of 15 to 40 % by weight of the copolymer.
40. (new) A copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein the natural polyamide is selected from the group consisting of caseins, gelatins, collagens, bone glues, blood albumins and soya proteins.
41. (new) A copolymer according to claim 21, further comprising a synthetic polyamide.
42. (new) A copolymer according to claim 19, wherein the polyamide is a synthetic polyamide.